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From the Reference Desk

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From the Reference Desk

Reference Publishing

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Another year has passed and it has been a good one for reference publishing. In fact, taking the longer view 1995-1996 has been a good couple of years for those of us in the world of reference work. Electronic reference sources from the World Wide Web to CD-ROMs to online fulltext databases began to fulfill their promise, while high quality print sources continued to be published. One has not replaced the other as some had predicted and others had feared. As electronic resources have emerged, printed reference volumes still remain viable both in the market and as necessary sources of information.

As proof of this, one need only look at this year's RASD Dartmouth Medal award winner. (See *RQ* 36, 1 Fall 1996). The Dartmouth was presented to Macmillan Library Reference USA / Charles Scribner's Sons' *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East* (1995, 0684192799, \$449). This set is a four-volume collection of essays dealing with major aspects of some of the world's oldest civilizations. The editors define the ancient near east as including "the core areas of Egypt, Syro Palestine, Mesopotamia and Anatolia," as well as the Arabian Peninsula and parts of Northeast Africa. The first volume is made up of four parts starting with the Ancient Near East in western thought, and continuing with parts on the environment, population and social institutions. The entire second volume is dedicated to a scholarly discussion of history and culture while volume three covers economy and trade, technology, artistic production, religion and science. The final volume deals with language, writing and literature, the visual, and performing arts and what the editor calls retrospective essays.

The set is introduced by a separate "cultural table of contents" highlighting cultural developments and a timeline stretching from the Neolithic (8000 BCE) to the Hellenistic age. A complete table of contents listing all of the articles along with each author's name is also provided. Because much of the primary source material takes the form of ancient documents written in a variety of ancient languages, the set includes a separate section entitled *Notes on Adapted Conventions* which explains the various systems of translations and transliterations used. This section also explains how ancient place names, chronology, and dates are handled. The index is 147 pages long and is essential for maximum use of the set. It is exhaustive in detail and contains both "see" and "see also" references. There is a thorough

list of contributors which provides each individual's name, their credentials and which article they wrote. Almost two hundred scholars from sixteen countries are included.

The writing in this set is scholarly but accessible. The article bibliographies are substantial, being in the form of brief biblio-

graphic essays subdivided into relevant subject categories. Books and journal articles are included, mostly in English, but there are references to some foreign language sources. The overall effect is that of a seminal scholarly work. No reference collection with interest in this area would be complete without it.

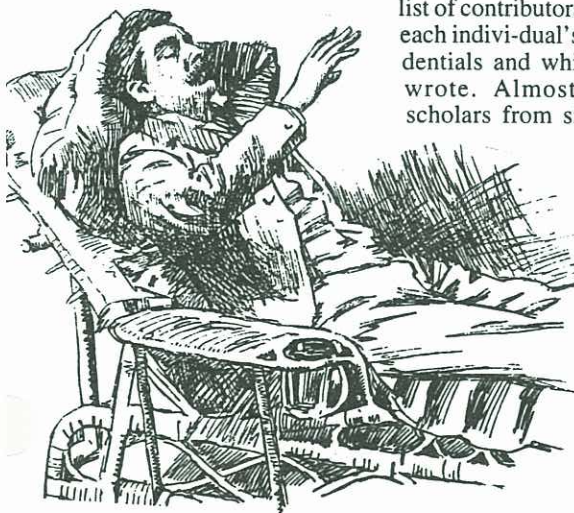
The two references receiving honorable mention for this year's Dartmouth Medal were the equally impressive *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* published by Macmillan Library Reference USA/Simon and Schuster Macmillan, and the *Encyclopedia of New York City* published by Yale University Press. The *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* (1995, 0-02-897355-0, \$425) is a revised edition of a landmark reference set first published in 1978. The publication of the first edition of this encyclopedia actually helped unite and solidify bioethics as a field of study and now, almost twenty years later, there are refereed journals, professional societies and a number of graduate programs dedicated solely to the field. Naturally, the advances made in scholarship during the past years have made the information in the first edition obsolete and thus the need for the revised edition.

The purpose of the revised edition is basically the same as the original. The editor **William Reich** seeks to integrate "what is known about the scientific and clinical state of the art, to synthesize, analyze and compare a full range of ethical positions... dealing with the life sciences and medical care." By a full range of ethical positions, Reich means social, environmental and global issues, not just the narrowly defined medical ethics often associated with bioethics. Succeeding admirably, this encyclopedia accomplished its purpose and more. The revised edition has been updated and expanded to include over 150 new articles and contributors. Efforts have been made to make the set international and interdisciplinary. While the majority of contributors are from American universities, scholars from a number of other countries have been included and disciplines ranging from psychology to health care finance to genetics are represented. Arrangement is alphabetical by broad subjects, which in turn are divided into subcategories. A list of all article titles and their subcategories is contained in the first volume and is very helpful in giving the reader a sense of the scope of the set. A thorough index points to the specific pages on which individual subjects are treated, while at the bottom of the index page a key is given referring to which pages appear in each volume. Each article is signed and contains a helpful bibliography of the sources used in the article. Although the set is scholarly in nature, one does not have to be a scholar to be comfortable with it.

Overall, the writing is clear, precise, and accessible to the new student or educated lay reader. The encyclopedia also has an extensive appendix of related documents as well as ethical codes and directives from a variety of associations and organizations. This revised edition of the *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, is a worthy successor to the original and libraries with an interest in bioethics, including college and university libraries as well as most large public libraries, ought to have it in their collections. [The *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* is also available on CD-ROM, single user for \$450 (0-02-897358-5) and networked \$550 (0-02864590-1).

Since I am a native New Yorker, the *Encyclopedia of New York City* (1995, 0300055366, \$60) obviously caught my eye when Yale University Press first released it in 1995. From that personal perspective, I am happy to report that this encyclopedia is worthy of the honorable mention it received for the Dartmouth

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award. It is an excellent one-volume encyclopedia on "The City." Anyone needing background information on New York City neighborhoods, ethnic groups, social institutions, historic periods, influential New Yorkers, etc., should start here. I was immediately drawn to the article on Brooklyn, my home borough, and found a four-page article on its history including photos, a map, population figures from 1790-1890 and a listing of mayors from when Brooklyn was a city itself. The entire encyclopedia is illustrated with photos, maps, and charts which enrich the text. The articles are all signed and there is an excellent section of notes on the contributors which gives the reader a good sense of the authors' credentials.

Many, but not all, of the articles have short bibliographies and this is my major complaint about this volume. I wish some of the articles had more substantial bibliographies. Also, while there is an index, it is only to the names of people who are not the subject of an individual entry. In order to find most information you must rely on the alphabetical arrangement of the articles. Obviously, from a librarian's point of view a more thorough index is desirable. But, given the overall quality of this encyclopedia, these are minor frustrations especially when one considers the price. This encyclopedia is a good buy for any library interested in New York City specifically, or in American urban life in general.

While these three references were big winners this year there are a number of other sources which have gained recognition as being part of "Best of the Year" or "Selected" lists by major library journals. Included below are the lists from *American Libraries*, May 1996 entitled "Outstanding Reference Sources: The 1996 Selection of Recent Titles," by Shirley A. Maul, as well as the list from *College and Research Libraries*, September 1996 issue, entitled "Selected Reference Books of 1995-1996," by Eileen McIlvaine. Remarkably, there is only one title which

appears in both lists; the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Given the more populist emphasis of *American Libraries* and the obvious academic bent of *CRL*, perhaps this is not so surprising. In any case, the *CRL* list contains bibliographies, checklists and foreign titles which you will not find in the *American Libraries* list, while the *American Libraries* list has sources covering everything from beer to Hollywood songs to **Mark Twain**, which are not cited in the *CRL* list. They are listed by title for convenient and quick reading. However, I would encourage anyone considering actual purchase (or those of you wanting more clarification about a specific title) to pull the correct issue of *American Libraries* or *College and Research Libraries* from your shelves and read the reviews.

American Libraries:

American Indians. ed. Harvey Markowitz. 3 vols. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem, 1995. 953p. \$270. (0-89356-757-4).

Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy. ed. Robert Audi. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995. 882p. \$89.95. (0-521-40224-7) pap. \$27.95 (0-521-48328-X).

Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. by David Crystal. New York: Cambridge UP, 1995. \$49.95. (0-521-40179-8).

Congressional Quarterly's Desk Reference on American Government. by Bruce Wetteran. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1995. 349p. \$54.95. (0-87187-956-5).

Contemporary Fashion. ed. Richard Martin. Detroit: St. James, 1995. 575p. \$135. (1-5862-173-3).

Conservation and Environmentalism: An Encyclopedia. ed. Robert Paehlke. New York: Garland, 1995. 771p. \$95. (0-8240-6101-2).

Encyclopedia of Beer. ed. Christine P. Rhodes, et al. New York: Henry Holt, 1995. 512p. \$35. (0-8050-3799-).

Encyclopedia of Bioethics. rev. ed., ed. Warren Reich. New York: Macmillan, 1995. 2,950p. \$450. (0-02-897355-0); single user CD, \$450. (0-02-897358-5); network CD, \$550, (0-02864590-1).

Encyclopedia of College Basketball. ed. Mike Douchant. Detroit: Gale, 1995. 615p. \$42.95. (0-8103-9640-8); pap. Visible Ink, 1995. \$19. (0-8103-9483-9).

Encyclopedia of Drugs and Alcohol. ed. Jerome H. Jaffee. 4 vols. New York: Macmillan Library Reference USA/Simon & Schuster and Prentice Hall International, 1995. 1,861p. \$340. (02-897185-X).

Encyclopedia of Herbs and Their Uses. by Deni Brown. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1995. 424p. \$39.95. (0-7894-0184-3).

Encyclopedia of New York City. ed. Kenneth T. Jackson. New Haven: Yale UP, 1995. 1350p. \$60. (0-300-05536-6).

Encyclopedia of the Dog. by Bruce Fogle. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1995. 312p. \$39.95. (0-7884-0149-5).

Encyclopedia of the United States Congress. eds. Donald Bacon, et al. 4 vols. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 2,359p. \$355. (0-13-276361-3).

Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature. by Mary Ellen Snodgrass. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1995. 644p. \$65. (0-87436-757-3).

Food Chronology: a Food Lover's Compendium of Events and Anecdotes from Prehistory to the Present. by James Trager. New York: Henry Holt, 1995. 783p. \$40. (0-8050-3389-0).

Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America. eds. Judy Galens, Anna Sheets, and Robin V. Young. 2 vols. Detroit: Gale, 1995. 1488p. \$125. (0-8103-9163-5).

Hollywood Song: the Complete Film Musical Companion. by Ken Bloom. 3 vols. New York: Facts on File, 1995. 1,504p. \$255. (0-8160-2002-7).

Landmark Documents in American History. (CD-ROM) New York: Facts on File, 1995. \$295. (0-8160-3247-5).

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Mark Twain A-Z: the Essential Reference to His Life and Writings. by R. Kent Ramussen. New York: Facts on File, 1995. 552p. \$45. (0-8160-2845-1).

Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1995. 1,236p. \$39.95. (0-87779-042-6).

Naval Institute Historical Atlas of the U.S. Navy. by Craig Symonds. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1995. 241p. \$54.95. (0-87187-956-5).

Notable Asian Americans. eds. Helen Zia and Susan Gall. Detroit: Gale, 1995. 468p. \$75. (0-8103-9623-8).

Notable Native Americans. ed. Sharon Malinowski with George H.J. Abrams. Detroit: Gale, 1995. 468p. \$75. (0-8103-9638-6).

Notable Twentieth Century Scientists. eds. Emily J. McMurray and Jane Kelly Kosek. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 1995. 2,397p. \$295. (0-8103-9181-3).

Oxford Companion to Philosophy. ed. Ted Honderich. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995. 1,009p. \$49.95. (0-19-866132-0).

Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States. eds. Cathy N. Davidson and Linda Wagner-Martin. New York: Oxford UP, 1995. 1,021p. \$49.95. (0-19-506608-1).

Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World. ed. John L. Esposito. 4 vols. New York: Oxford UP, 1995. 1,936p. \$395. (0-19-506613-8).

Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture. by Rachel Carley. New York, Henry Holt, 1994. 272p. \$40. (0-8050-2646-0); pap. \$19.95. (0-8050-4563).

Who's Who of Sports Champions: Their Stories and Records. by Ralph Hickok. New York: Houghton, 1995. 489p. \$49.95. (0-395-73312-X).

College and Research Libraries:

African-American Holiness Pentecostal Movement: An Annotated Bibliography. by Sherry Sherrod DuPree. (Religious Information Series, Vol 4). New York: Garland, 1996. 650p. \$95. (0-8240-1449-9).

Animal Rights Movement in the United States, 1975-1990: An Annotated Bibliography. by Bettina Manzo. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1994. 296p. \$39.50. (0-8108-2732-8).

Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers. by Barbara K. Henritze. Baltimore: Genealogical Publ., 1995. 206p. \$35. (0-8063-1457-5).

Black Saga: The African American Experience. by Charles M. Christian. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 608p. \$35. (0-395-68717-9).

Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. by David Crystal. New York: Cambridge UP, 1995. \$49.95. (0-521-40179-8).

Cassell Dictionary of Modern Britain. eds. Tanya Joseph and D.J. Sager. London: Cassell, 1995. 306p. £29. (0-304034588-1).

Companion to American Thought. eds. Richard Wightman Fox and James T. Kloppenberg. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995. 840p. \$95.40. (1-55786-2680).

Czech National Bibliography: Books, Journal Articles, Periodicals, Dissertations. (CD-ROM). Praha: Albertinaicome Praha, 1995-. Price not available. (ISSN: 1210-8995). Address: Albertinaicome Praha; Revolucni 13; Praha 1, 1100 00 Czech Republic. Telephone 02-24-803-254.

Dancers and Choreographers: A Selected Bibliography. by Leslie Getz. Wakefield, RI: Asphodel, 1995. 305p. \$24.95. (1-55921-108-3).

Deutsches Schriftsteller-Lexikon: 1830-1880. by Herbert Jacob. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1995. Vol 1. A-B. 248DM. (3-05-002120-9). (first volume of a planned multi-volume set).

Dictionnaire historique de la papaué, ed. Philippe Levillain. Paris: Fayard, 1994. 1759p. 1,300FF. (2-21302537-1).

Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History. eds. Jack Salzman, David Lionel Smith and Cornel West. 5 vols. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996. 3203p. \$450. (0-02-897345-3).

Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture. ed. Barbara Tenebaum. 5 vols. New York: Scribner's Macmillan, 1996. \$449. (0-684-19253-5).

Folk Traditions of the Arab World: A Guide to Motif Classification. by El-Shamy, Hasan M. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1995. 2 vols. \$75. (0-253-35201-0).

French Critical Reception of African-American Literature from the Beginnings to 1970: An Annotated Bibliography. by Michel Fabre. (Bibliographies and Indexes in Afro-American and African Studies, No. 33). Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1995. 310p. \$75. (0-313-25368-4).

History Today Companion to British History. eds. Juliet Gardiner and Neil Wenborn. London: Collins & Brown, 1995. 840p. \$40. (1-85585-1784).

Investment Valuation: Tools and Techniques for Determining the Value of Any Asset. by Aswath Damodaran. New York: John Wiley, 1996. 519p. \$60. (0-471-13393-0).

Judica Americana: An Annotated Bibliography of Publications from 1960-1990. by Nathan M. Kaganoff. Brooklyn: Carlson, 1995. 2 vols. 917p. \$150. (0-926019-75-9).

Matrology: a Bibliography of Writings by Christian Women from the First to the Fifteenth Centuries. by Andrew Kadel. New York: Continuum, 1995. 191p. \$29.95. (0-8264-0676-9).

Narrative Bibliography of the African American Frontier: Blacks in the Rocky Mountain West, 1535-1912. by Roger D. Hardaway. (Studies in American History, No. 9). Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1995. 245p. \$89.95. (0-7734-8879-0).

The Old French Narrative Lay: An Analytical Bibliography. by Glyn S. Burgess. Cambridge, MA: D.S. Brewer, 1995. 140p. \$45. (0-85991-478X).

Pan African Chronology: A Comprehensive Reference to the Black Quest for Freedom in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia 1400-1865. by Everett Jenkins Jr. 440p. \$49.95. (0-7864-0139-7).

Popular Religious Magazines of the United States. eds. P. Mack Fackler and Charles H. Lippy. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1995. 595p. \$125. (0-313-28533-0).

Le Robert Electronique DMW: Outil d'aide a la redaction sur la base du Grand Robert de la langue francaise. (CD-ROM). Paris: Dictionnaires Le Robert, 1994 \$1080. (2-85036289-1). Supplied by Chadwick Healey.

Schriftstellerinnen in Berlin 1871 bis 1945: ein Lexikon zu Leben und werk. by Petra Baudke and Jutta Schulze. Berlin: Orlanda Frauenverlag, 1995. 407p. 58DM. (3-929823-22-5).

Twentieth Century Britain: An Encyclopedia. ed. F.M. Leventhal. New York: Garland, 1995. 902p. \$95. (0-8240-7205-7).

Women's Resources International. (CD-ROM). Baltimore: National Information Services Corp.(NISC), 1996-. \$895 per year.

